

Notes from counties not labeled:

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Productivity and retention of workforce
 - Enhancement of economic development and cultural opportunities
 - Break cycle of poverty
 - Improvement of PACT scores and SAT scores
 - A serious impact on quality of life both positive and negative
 - Impact to economic opportunity must have educated workforce
 - As a school district – positive test scores are important
 - Pride in community
 - Lower unemployment
 - Better homes
 - Lower public assistance programs
 - Educate parents about the importance of a good education; there all children will see the need of a good education to have a good quality of life
 - A higher standard of living creates people who are concerned and involved in their community and for its future. When education is pointed in the right direction, test scores go up and the self-esteem of the community collectively increases.

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Funding for education
 - Parenting workshops
 - Early identification and follow through to identify student needs
 - More diversity
 - More effective early childhood programs
 - More effective extracurricular program
 - Less emphasis on teaching to the test and more emphasis on course curriculum
 - Better engagement of parents (especially fathers)
 - Feeling of ownership of schools and sense of belonging to school community
 - More parental involvement
 - Physical health of students
 - Lack of understanding or work place expectations
 - Balance of physical, social, emotional, cultural and academics exposure
 - More emphasis of work force opportunities
 - Finance budget cuts
 - Highly qualified teachers
 - Student teacher ratios
 - Achievement gap
 - Parents
 - Mentoring – business, teachers into industry and business
 - Adopt a school program that goes both ways
 - Parenting coordinators

- Adequate funding of programs
- More school to work partners
- More community and business involvement
- More parental involvement (parenting education through adult education)
- More mentoring programs

Challenges:

- More resources for growing diverse population (Hispanic and African Americans)
- Chamber of Commerce being on the same page
- Rural schools have no business partners
- Rural poverty
- Economic make-up of county – rural urban and retirement
- Change the cycle of single-parent families and all of the associated problems
- Increase opportunities for good employment
- Pre K-3 program
- Fully funded education programs
- Mentoring and tutoring programs
- Involve churches
- Community partnerships
- Business shadowing needed

Strengths

- Montessori Program
- Faith-based communities have tutorial programs
- Extended days and tutorial days
- Double dose of ELA and Math
- Pace Program
- HVAC
- Partnerships with colleges
- Rotary readers
- Strong leaders in schools
- School district committed to ALL students succeeding
- Some schools have great parent involvement
- Excellent facilities
- Excellent teacher-student ratios
- Head Start
- First Steps
- English as a Second Language
- SAT Camp
- Job Shadowing
- School to work program
- Caring and competent teachers
- FDTCC
- Quality and safe facilities
- Transportation
- Food services
- Diversity
- Improved economic development

- Pride sense of accomplishments
- Supportive of education financially
- Less crime
- Quality schools
- Job security in our community
- Qualified work force/educators
- Improved quality of life
- Healthy community all the way around
- Improves future of all
- More responsible citizens
- Strong leaders in schools
- School district committed to all students succeeding
- Some schools have great parent involvement
- Excellent facilities
- Excellent student-teacher ratios
- First Steps and Head Start
- After school programs
- Summer enrichment programs
- Public library
- Technical School
- School to Work
- First Steps offering instructional opportunities for parents
- Baby Net
- Parenting programs parent involvement
- High School 101 – exploration of careers in the county

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- School-to-work, business partnerships, Montessori school, career programs, character education and full day 4-year-old programs
- Salute to Education
- Choices
- Boys and Girls Club
- Tutoring/Mentoring- Church
- High performance partnerships
- School foundation
- Civic Club Programs
- PTA/PTO
- Homework Centers
- After school and summer school programs
- Mentoring programs/shadowing
- Terrific Kids
- Superstar Math
- Accelerated Reading and Math programs
- Business partnerships
- Junior Achievement programs
- SAT Honor Court
- Faith based program

- School Tools
- Back to school bash
- Junior Leadership
- Junior Scholars
- Rotary Readers
- Shadowing
- After school program
- K-5 enhancement programs
- Lunch buddy program
- Star Lab
- After school retrieval
- SAFE Center
- Community Resource Center
- First Steps
- Class size reduction
- Study skills seminar

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- More parenting programs offered to the community, parenting centers (located in schools and churches)
- Support educators
- Read to and with children
- Parent education
- Volunteer your services in tutoring and mentoring
- Visit the schools
- Turn off the TV (monitor shows and limit hours watched)
- Buy education videos and books
- Support adult literacy
- More business involvement
- Give more financial support
- Use retirees as resources
- Increase parental involvement
- Involve churches
- Increase parenting and volunteer workshops
- Assist parents to know how to help their children's' weaknesses
- Need that "we're all in this together" attitude
- More parent education
- More involvement from business and interfaith communities
- Stronger ties between schools and homes and vice versa
- Participate in schools
- Be willing to tutor
- Neighborhoods could institute designated driver programs to community and school functions
- Ministerial groups and churches need to be more active schools
- Encourage students to set high goals
- Good role models
- Provide recreational activities

- Help with homework
- Churches provide programs to promote academic achievement
- More parents participating in PTSA
- Volunteer readers
- Communicate the benefits of a strong school system (more PR)

More community schooling activities at the school evening programs for parents and students

More community outreach programs tutorial, mentoring, cultural, career paths/shadows technology

More positive events at school

More parental involvement schools need to be more family friendly

Incentives for learning

Positive attitude towards education

Better PR Program/Career planning